

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 008417

67

ORIGIN IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 /024 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:IO/UNP:RGLONG:B

APPROVED BY:IO/SA:TALYNCH

EUR/RPM:GBHELMAN

----- 084451

P 132302Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 008417

FOL RPT USNATO 0121 ACTION SECSTATE SECDEF INFO LONDON

REYKJAVIK USLOSACLANT COMICEDEFOR 12 JAN QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0121

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, NAC, IC, UK, EFIS, PFOR

SUBJ: UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE: JANUARY 12 SPECIAL NAC MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 006744 (DTG 120158Z JAN 76),(B) STATE 006730

(DTG 101843Z JAN 76), (C) USNATO 0104 (DTG 091800Z JAN 76)

SUMMARY: EXTENSIVE COUNCIL DEBATE FOLLOWING REASONED AND
DISPASSIONATE PRESENTATIONS OF ICELANDIC AND BRITISH POSITIONS
PRODUCED FOLLOWING RESULTS:

(A) UNANIMOUS ENDORSEMENT OF AND SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT
ROLE SYG LUNS WILL PLAY BEGINNING WITH JANUARY 14 VISIT TO
REYKJAVIK;

(B) GENERAL RECOGNITION THAT THE PRESENCE OF ROYAL NAVY
VESSELS IN ICELANDIC FISHING WATERS IS MAJOR OBSTACLE TO
RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIONS. MAJORITY OF PERMREPS WHO SPOKE CALLED
FOR WITHDRAWAL AS FIRST STEP TOWARDS SETTLEMENT. SEVERAL ALSO
FAVORED CONCURRENT, IF TACIT, RESTRAINT BY ICELANDIC COAST GUARD.

(C) U
ANIMOUS EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN AT GRAVITY OF DISPUTES
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 008417

AND AT THE POTENTIAL HARM IT HOLDS FOR THE ALLIANCE, AS WELL AS
URGENT APPEALS TO THE PARTIES TO EXERCISE THE UTMOST RESTRAINT.
END SUMMARY.

1. ICELANDIC AND BRITISH PRESENTATIONS. ICELANDIC PERMREP TOMASSON, WHO HAD PREPARED HIS CASE WITH EXTENSIVE DOCUMENTATION DISTRIBUTED IN ADVANCE, CONCENTRATED ON RECOUNTING EVENTS BOTH AT SEA AND ON THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT BEGINNING WITH THE AGUSTSSON/CALLAGHAN BILATERALS DURING THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL. TOMASSON CONTRASTED WHAT HE CALLED HMG'S IMPRESSION OF "SWEET REASONABLENESS" DURING THE DECEMBER MEETINGS WITH THE CONDUCT OF BRITISH FRIGATES AND CONTRACT PROTECTION TUGS RESULTING IN THE SEVERAL "RAMMINGS". TOMASSON EMPHASIZED SIZE AND SPEED OF THE BRITISH VESSELS COMPARED WITH THE SMALLER AND SLOWER ICELANDIC CUTTERS. HE CONCLUDED HIS INSTRUCTED REMARKS SAYING "IF THE BRITISH NAVY CONTINUES TO INTERVENE IN ICELANDIC WATERS I CANNOT CONTINUE TO SIT AT THE SAME TABLE WITH THE UK REPRESENTATIVE". IN A PERSONAL FOOTNOTE TOMASSON SAID THAT THE PREDICTED IRE AGAINST NATO IN ICELAND OF WHICH HIS FOREIGN MINISTER HAD SPOKEN FOUR WEEKS AGO "IS ALREADY UPON US. IF WE CANNOT DO SOMETHING QUICKLY TO OFFER SOME PROSPECT FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, THEN EVEN THE MOST PRO-NATO GOVERNMENT IN REYKJAVIK -- I.E., THE ONE WE HAVE TODAY -- CANNOT FAIL TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CONSEQUENCES."

2. UK PERMREP KILLICK SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD TRIED TO AVOID DEBATING THE FACTS IN THE NATO FORUM AND THUS HAD NOT DISTRIBUTED DOCUMENTATION IN ADVANCE. BUT HE HASTENED TO ADD THAT HIS GOVERNMENT "WAS NOT IN ANY WAY PUT OUT" THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND CALLED FOR COUNCIL MEETING. HE REPEATED CALLAGHAN'S DECEMBER STATEMENTS IN TO EFFECT THAT A REASONABLE COMPROMISE CAN AND WILL BE NEGOTIATED; AND HE INSISTED THE "SWEET REASONABLENESS" WAS NOT EXHIBITED SIMPLY FOR THE SAKE OF CREATING AN IMPRESSION. HMG IS STILL WILLING TO ENGAGE IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS THE ICELANDERS MAY HAVE SEEN. KILLICK THEN PROCEEDED TO ARGUE THE BRITISH CASE, RELYING HEAVILY UPON EXISTING INTERNATIONAL LAW AND UPON THE FACT THAT BRITISH CONSERVATION EXPERTS HAD DIFFERENT DATA AND INTERPRETATIONS REGARDING THE FISHING RESOURCES

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 008417

AROUND ICELAND WHICH THEY WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH THEIR ICELANDIC COUNTERPARTS. KILLICK CONCLUDED ON THE AFFIRMATIVE NOTE THAT NAC MEETING COULD OFFER A PROSPECT FOR MOVING MATTERS FORWARD, AND HE WAS OPEN TO ANY SUGGESTIONS OR WILLING TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.

3. ALLIED REACTIONS

US: AMBASSADOR BRUCE, DRAWING ON REFTELS, LED WITH STATEMENT WHICH, TOGETHER WITH DE STAERCKE'S (BELGIUM) INTERVENTION, SET TONE FOR GENERALLY INSTRUCTED STATEMENTS BY OTHERS UNDERLINING GRAVITY OF ISSUES INVOLVED.

-- BELGIUM: DE STAERCKE ENDORSED THE US STATEMENT, REEMPHASIZED THE DANGERS FOR THE ALLIANCE AND ALLIED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT

HOPES FOR A SETTLEMENT RAISED BY THE MINISTERIAL BILATERALS HAD NOT BEEN FULFILLED. DE STAERCKE SAID HE THOUGHT THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM WAS THE USE BY THE UK OF DISPROPORTIONATE FORCE. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO WITHDRAW THE ROYAL NAVY, THEREBY ENABLING THE SYG TO OBTAIN ASSURANCES OF SOME TACIT RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF ICELAND.

-- TURKEY: ERALP PLEADED THAT NO IRREVOCABLE STEP BE TAKEN BY EITHER PARTY. HE SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED ICELANDIC BREAKING RELATIONS WITH THE UK AS A STEP THAT WOULD DO ONLY HARM, AND ADDED THAT, IN HIS JUDGMENT, NO GOOD WILL COME FROM BLAMING NATO FOR DISPUTES THAT ARISE BETWEEN ALLIES.

-- GREECE: THEODOROPOULOS DISCUSSED LAW OF THE SEA ISSUES INVOLVED, CALLED FOR RESTRAINT, AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT ICELAND HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN CALLING UPON SYG LUNS.

-- NORWAY: BUSCH RECALLED FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND'S ADVICE THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ROYAL NAVY WAS A NECESSARY FIRST STEP.

-- DENMARK: SVART SAID HIS GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED THE EXCEPTIONAL RELIANCE OF ICELAND ON THE FISHERIES RESOURCES FOR ITS VERY EXISTENCE. DENMARK ALSO SUPPORTS THE 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. SVART ALSO CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH NAVAL ELEMENTS, SAYING THAT SUCH A GESTURE SHOULD BE RECIPROCATED BY CURTAILMENT OF ICELANDIC HARASSMENT, AT LEAST DURING NEGOTIATIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 008417

-- CANADA: MENZIES SPOKE OF THE STATESMANLIKE DECISION TAKEN BY THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER IN THE 1973 DISPUTE, WHEN HE ACTED TO RECALL THE ROYAL NAVY AND THUS SET IN MOTION EVENTS WHICH LED TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. MENZIES SAID OTTAWA FEELS THIS ACTION SHOULD BE RECIPROCATED BY ICELANDIC CESSATION OF HARASSMENT. RECALLING CANADIAN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION, HE SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE INTERIM VOLUNTARY REDUCTIONS OF THE CATCH DURING NEGOTIATIONS.

-- ITALY: CATALANO ASKED THE ICELANDIC REPRESENTATIVE TO EMPHASIZE TO HIS GOVERNMENT THE USEFULNESS OF THE ICELANDIC DELEGATION REMAINING AT NATO HEADQUARTERS AND IN THE COUNCIL.

-- FRG: KRAPF EMPHASIZED HIS GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION THAT, WHILE OUTCOME OF ISSUES INVOLVED IS IMPORTANT FOR GREAT BRITAIN, IT IS VITAL FOR ICELAND. KRAPF, TOO, RECOMMENDED THE PRECEDURES INVOLVED IN THE SETTLEMENT TWO YEARS AGO AS EXAMPLES WHICH SHOULD BE FOLLOWED.

-- NETHERLANDS: HARTOGH ENDORSED THE US STATEMENT AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE ISSUES WERE NOT MERELY LEGAL BUT INVOLVED LARGER QUESTIONS OF GOOD PARTNERSHIP IN ALLIANCE.

-- FRANCE: TINE, ASKING THAT HIS SILENCE NOT BE MISINTERPRETED, SAID HE INTENDED TO REPORT DEVELOPMENTS AND CIRCULATE INSTRUCTED VIEWS LATER.

4. LUN'S SUMMATION:

(A) ALL WERE VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE FOR THE ALLIANCE THAT DISPUTE NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.

(B) THERE WAS "GENERAL RECOGNITION" THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE ROYAL NAVY IN ICELANDIC WATERS HAS NOT BEEN CONDUCTIVE TO FINDING A SOLUTION.

(C) HE WAS GRATEFUL AND ENCOURAGED BY THE WORDS OF SUPPORT FOR THE MISSION HE HAD OUTLINED FOR HIMSELF.

5. COMMENT: PRIOR TO NAC MEETING, AMBASSADOR BRUCE MET WITH LUNS AND DE STAERCKE TO REVIEW US POSITION AND DISCERN INTENTIONS OF OTHERS. LUNS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US APPROACH AND INDICATED HIS PLAN TO VISIT REYKJAVIK BEGINNING JANUARY 14, AND HOPEFULLY LONDON ON JANUARY 18. HE ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 008417

SAID TOMASSON WAS WORRIED BECAUSE OF AGUSTSSON'S CONTINUING ILLNESS WHICH TOOK LATTER AWAY FROM THE SCENE AT A CRITICAL TIME. TOMASSON ALSO REPORTED TO LUNS THAT ICELANDIC PRIMIN HAD TOLD HIM THAT IF UK FRIGATES ARE NOT WITHDRAWN, TOMASSON WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TO ATTEND NAC SESSIONS. LUNS ALSO SAID HE SUBSEQUENTLY HAD TOLD KILLICK PRIVATELY THAT IF UK NAVY STAYS, ICELANDERS WILL REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE. DE STAERCKE, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH BRUCE, FORESHADOWED POSITION HE LATER TOOK IN NAC, AS DID OTHER DELREPS IN SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH US MISSION OFFICERS.

6. WE BELIEVE NAC SESSION FULLY SERVED PURPOSES SOUGHT BY DEPARTMENT, AND ESPECIALLY SUPPORTED LUNS' ROLE. MOREOVER, MEETING PROBABLY WENT FAR TO MEET ICELANDIC OBJECTIVES, AND MESSAGE TO UK FROM STRONG AND VOCAL MAJORITY WAS CLEARLY THAT, IN EYES OF MOST, UK BEARS ON US FOR CURRENT VOLATILE SITUATION THAT CAN BEST BE ATTENUATED BY SPEEDY WITHDRAWAL OF ROYAL NAVY UNITS. END COMMENT.

7. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AGREED NATO PRESS RELEASE ISSUED FOLLOWING THE NAC:
BEGIN TEXT:

"THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MET TODAY AT 4 P.M. AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND AND HEARD STATEMENTS BY THE ICELANDIC PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, AMBASSADOR TOMAS A. TOMASSON, AND THE UK PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, AMBASSADOR SIR JOHN KILLICK. THESE STATEMENTS WERE FOLLOWED BY AN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION. THE COUNCIL GENERALLY EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN AT THIS DISPUTE, WHICH NOT ONLY WAS HARMFUL TO THE RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO ALLIED COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO TO THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE. AN APPEAL TO EXERCISE UTMOST RESTRAINT

WAS ADDRESSED TO THE TWO PARTIES IN THE DISPUTE. THE SECRETARY
GENERAL, DR. J.M.A.H. LUNS, INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT HE HAD
ACCEPTED THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND TO VISIT
REYKJAVIK FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT HE
HOPED THEREAFTER ALSO TO VISIT LONDON. HE WILL GO TO ICELAND
IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. THE COUNCIL EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT
THESE VISITS WILL PROMOTE THE URGENTLY REQUIRED SOLUTION".
END TEXT.BRUCE UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, FISHING DISPUTES, NEGOTIATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE008417
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter:
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760012-1049
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760199/baaaenqx.tel
Line Count: 228
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE: JANUARY 12 SPECIAL NAC MEETING
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, UK, NATO, NAC
To: USUN N Y
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006